



FIGs. 5D and 5E are cross-section views of the AST test array of FIG. 5C;

FIG. 6 is a bottom view of the AST test array of FIG. 5C;

FIG. 6A is a bottom view of an AST test array useful within the present invention;

FIG. 7 is a perspective view of an AST test array canister useful within the present
5 invention;

FIG. 7A is an enlarged side elevation view of the AST test array canister of FIG. 7;

FIG. 7B is a sectional view of the AST test array canister of FIG. 7;

FIG. 8 is a top view of an ID test rotor useful within the present invention;

FIGs. 8A and 8B are cross-section views of the ID test rotor of FIG. 8;

FIG. 8C is a top view of a first alternate ID test rotor useful within the present
10 invention;

FIG. 8D is a cross-section view of an second alternate ID test rotor useful within the
present invention;

FIG. 8E is a cross-section view of a third alternate ID test rotor useful within the
15 present invention;

FIG. 9 is a perspective bottom view of the ID test rotor of FIG. 8 useful within the
present invention;

FIG. 10 is a perspective view of an ID canister useful within the present invention;

FIG. 10A is an enlarged perspective front view of the ID canister of FIG. 10;

FIG. 10B is an enlarged perspective back view of the ID canister of FIG. 10;
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FIG. 10C is a cross-sectional view of the ID canister of FIG. 10;

FIGs. 11A-11D are various views of a broth container useful within the present
invention;

FIGs. 12A and 12B are perspective views of the broth container of FIG. 11;

FIG. 13 is a schematic elevation view of a vortex mixer useful within the present
25 invention;

~~FIG. 14 is a perspective view of a broth canister useful within the present invention;~~

FIG. 14A is an enlarged perspective view of a the broth canister useful with the broth container of FIG. 11 of FIG. 14;

FIG. 14B is a sectional view of a the broth canister useful with the broth container of FIG. 11 of FIG. 14;

5 FIGs. 15A-15H and 15 J-15M 15A-M illustrate the functions of the sample pipetting and transport system of FIG. 3 in filling the AST test arrays of FIG. 5;

FIG. 16 is a side elevation view of an ID rotor robotic device useful within the present invention;

10 FIG. 17 is a perspective view of an AST array carrier useful within the present invention;

FIG. 18 is a perspective view of an AST carrier transport useful within the present invention;

FIG. 18A is a perspective view of the AST array carrier of FIG. 17 nested within a AST carrier transport of FIG. 18 useful within the present invention;

15 FIG. 19 is a top plan view of an AST array dispenser useful within the present invention;

FIG. 20 is a view of an AST carrier transport useful within the present invention;

FIG. 21 is a view of an broth container handling apparatus useful within the present invention;

20 FIGs. 21A and 21B are enlarged views of a portion of the broth container handling apparatus of FIG. 21;

FIG. 22 is a view of an ID rotor filling and centrifuge device useful within the present invention;

25 FIG. 23 is a side elevation view of a pipetting apparatus useful within the present invention; and,

FIG. 24 is illustrative of a liquid sample filling process using the AST test array of FIG. 5.